



# REFLECTIONS

September 18, 2016, Refreshed from October 5, 2008

**Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.**

*1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

## More than Meets the Eye

The sound of waves rolling onto the beach beckoned us early that morning. Even the roar of Gulf waters couldn't disturb the peacefulness as we walked along the seashore together. My eyes remained glued to the sand in search of a tiny treasures God placed on the earth when Janice directed me to look up. There I found several pelicans flying silently beneath a deep blue sky on their way to somewhere. Pelicans in flight make less than a majestic scene, but the silence of their passing overhead helped me realize that things are not as they seem. I once heard someone say that, but then he continued, "Better, things are *more* than they seem."

The world is indeed a complex place I'm sure we all agree; but we each see it differently. We each see it from the perspective of our own lives. We see it from the places we live, from the influences of those around us, and from the experiences we have had. We cast our judgments and make our decisions on those perceptions. Yet we never have it completely right. Things are not as they seem. There is more going on around us than meets the eye.

A flock of birds flying unnoticed above my head is but a small example of something going on around me that could have been easily missed. So much is going on simultaneously in the world and most of those things seemingly are not connected to each other. But I wonder.

I wonder if every single thing has a purpose. I wonder if all of those things are really connected in God's plan—things are more than they seem. Even though their flight fit nature's scheme, a few pelicans inspired these moments of reflection. Perhaps God had that idea in mind all along. But experience tells me that God had other things in mind as well. We can never see the whole picture. Things are more than they seem.

Even our own lives are more than they seem. Silent powers fly above our heads, unseen treasures lie beneath our feet, hidden thoughts live within our minds, unleashed power resides in our hands, and untapped love is buried in our hearts.

Things are more than they seem. And God designed it all.

*You are the light of the world,*

*Richard +*

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